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Verizon's High-Speed Internet Access Arrives in 20 More Rural Communities Throughout Illinois, Just in Time for the Holidays

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Media Contact:
Karen Boswell, 309-663-3491
Bill Kula, 972-718-6924

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Verizon customers in 20 rural communities throughout Illinois will get a long-awaited benefit, just in time for the holidays: the availability of high-speed Internet access where they live or work. Verizon is raising the speed limit in these communities with the introduction of its super-fast digital subscriber line (DSL) Internet access service for consumers and businesses.

The action is part of Verizon's initiative to deliver its fast, affordable DSL service to thousands more consumers and businesses in the state over the next year. The newest communities that can now receive Verizon Online DSL service for the first time are: Ashton, Ava, Chatsworth, Clay City, Colfax, Cypress, Elkhart, Grand Ridge, Ladd, McLean, Meredosia, Murrayville, Noble, Piper City, Saybrook, Shirland, Stanford, Toluca, Washburn/Low Point and Wenona.

"Upgrades to Verizon's network have been completed, and broadband services are available now in each of these areas, allowing more people to take advantage of Verizon's affordable high-speed Internet access, as well as other great new offerings," said Philip Wood, Verizon's vice president of public affairs, policy and communications in Illinois.

"Our DSL customers can experience the Internet fast lane to listen to music, play games, watch streaming video, shop and work from home," said Wood. "This expansion underscores Verizon's ongoing commitment to serve our rural Illinois markets."

Verizon's new packaged offerings will allow residential customers to combine their local telephone service with various plans that offer unlimited nationwide long-distance service for one low price. Verizon Freedom Essentials offers unlimited local, regional and domestic long-distance calling with the three most popular calling features - Home Voice Mail, Call Waiting and Caller ID -- for as little as $49.99 a month. Verizon Freedom Value, offering any-distance, unlimited domestic calling but no calling features, costs $39.99 and is the company's lowest-priced any-distance calling plan. DSL can be added for as little as $23.99, for a combined cost as low as $63.98 per month. For the convenience of one-stop shopping, DIRECTV service from Verizon can also be added, providing residential customers with unlimited use of their telephone, high speed-Internet access and in-home video service for $104.99 per month. Verizon also offers DSL plans for business customers.

For customers in the areas where DSL is being rolled out, Verizon will offer two high-speed DSL Internet service plans, one with maximum connection speeds of up to 768 Kbps (kilobits per second) downstream and 128 Kbps upstream and another with maximum connection speeds of up to 3.0 Mbps (megabits per second) downstream and 768 kbps upstream.*

The DIRECTV Total Choice package offers more than 135 channels of 100 percent digital video and music programming, providing a higher-quality picture and sound than cable's older analog signals. The package also offers the ability to add advanced services like video recorders, interactivity and high-definition programming.

** NOTE: Actual (throughput) speeds will vary.*

Verizon Communications Inc. (NYSE:VZ), a New York-based Dow 30 company, is a leader in delivering broadband and other wireline and wireless communication innovations to mass market, business, government and wholesale customers. Verizon Wireless operates America's most reliable wireless network, serving nearly 57 million customers nationwide. Verizon's Wireline operations include Verizon Business, which operates one of the most expansive wholly-owned global IP networks, and Verizon Telecom, which is deploying the nation's most advanced fiber-optic network to deliver the benefits of converged communications, information and entertainment services to customers. For more information, visit www.verizon.com.

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